



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**October 2, 2007**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Detroit, Michigan

**IMMIGRATION OFFICIAL ONE OF FIVE DEFENDANTS  
CHARGED WITH BRIBERY, EXTORTION AND CONSPIRACY**

A high-ranking official with the Detroit office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency ("ICE"), formerly known as the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and four other metro-Detroit men were indicted by a federal Grand Jury with multiple counts of bribery, conspiracy and extortion, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

U.S. Attorney Murphy was joined in the announcement by Thomas M. Frost, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago, Illinois office of the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General, and Andrew G. Arena, Special Agent in Charge of the Detroit, Michigan, office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Named in the Superseding Indictment were:

ROY M. BAILEY, age 54, of Romulus, Michigan,  
ANTONIO IVEZAJ, age 39, of Milford, Michigan,  
TALAL KHALIL CHAHINE, age 52, formerly of Plymouth, Michigan,  
MOHAMAD ARZOUNI, age 59 of Dearborn Heights, Michigan; and  
MOHAMMAD BAZZI, age 61, formerly of Detroit, Michigan.

The indictment charges BAILEY with misusing his position as the Assistant District Director with INS and, thereafter, as the Field Office Director at DHS-ICE by accepting large sums of currency and other property in return for granting immigration benefits, including the release of several individuals who were being kept in the custody of INS and DHS-ICE.

U.S. Attorney Murphy announced that the charges were unsealed today followed an extensive, multi-year investigation into corruption activities at the Detroit offices of the INS and, thereafter, ICE.

ANTONIO IVEZAJ, the owner of TMI Construction Company in Ferndale, Michigan, was charged with paying in excess of \$5,000.00 and providing free residential construction services to BAILEY in exchange for IVEZAJ's release from INS custody. ANTONIO IVEZAJ and ROY BAILEY were further charged with conspiring to arrange for a \$50,000.00 bribe paid to release a second individual from ICE custody.

Also charged in the Superseding Indictment was TALAL KHALIL CHAHINE, the owner of the La Shish restaurant chain. CHAHINE and BAILEY were charged with conspiring to use BAILEY's position at INS and at DHS-ICE to extort money from former employees of the La Shish restaurant business. In May of 2006, CHAHINE was charged in a separate investigation with criminal tax evasion. Since the time those charges were made public, CHAHINE has failed to return to the United States and is believed to be living as a fugitive in the country of Lebanon.

The Superseding Indictment also charged BAILEY and CHAHINE, along with ARZOUNI and BAZZI, with conspiring to defraud the United States by obtaining immigration benefits, including permanent resident status, through the use of false marriages arranged with other La Shish employees who were U.S. citizens.

BAILEY was further charged with failing to report and refer to the proper authorities the theft of over \$300,000.00 in property from criminal aliens who were being housed at the INS/ICE detention facility in Monroe, Michigan. In January of 2006, PATRICK WYNNE, a former ICE Detention Officer, was sentenced to a prison term of 57 months for his role in the thefts of alien property at the Monroe detention facility.

United States Attorney Stephen Murphy said, "Corruption on the order and degree alleged in today's Grand Jury Indictment is very serious, because it amounts to the selling of one's office. While this matter appears to be an isolated incident, prosecution will be nevertheless be pursued with the utmost and thorough-going professionalism because no one is above the law." Mr. Murphy also commended the agents from DHS-OIG and FBI for conducting an exhaustive and thorough investigation.

Special Agent in Charge Frost stated, "Acts of corruption within the Department of Homeland Security represent a threat to our nation and undermine the legitimacy of the immigration process. This indictment should serve to reassure the public that such conduct will not be tolerated, and that the Office of Inspector General, in partnership with the US Attorney's Office and the FBI, will work tirelessly to end corruption and bring offenders to justice."

Special Agent in Charge Arena advised, "Public corruption is a top investigative priority of the FBI and we will aggressively investigate individuals who abuse their position in a government office for private gain."

The subject charges returned against defendant ROY M. BAILEY carry total penalties of up to 68 years in prison and fines of over \$1 million.

The charges returned against ANTONIO IVEZAJ carry total penalties of up to 20 years in prison and fines of up to \$500,000.00

The charges returned against TALAL KHALIL CHAHINE carry total penalties of up to 25 years in prison and fine of up to \$500,000.00

The charges against MOHAMAD ARZOUNI and MOHAMMAD BAZZI carry total penalties of up to 5 years in prison and fines of up to \$250,000.

An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. Each defendant is entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by special agents of the Department of Homeland Security - Office of Inspector General and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce C. Judge.